IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:


1-54. (Cancelled.)


55. (Currently amended) A method for transmitting content in a communications network, the method comprising:

(A)     configuring a table to cause content to be routed over a first path in said communications network;

(B)     analyzing whether a specified amount of time has elapsed relative to the transmission of content via the first path; and

(C)     based at least in part on the analyzing step (B), when said specified amount of time has elapsed relative to the transmission of content via the first path, modifying the table to cause content to be routed over a second path in said communications network.


56. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the first path is an overlay forwarding path.


57. (canceled)


58. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the modifying step (C) comprises: designating a neighboring node in the second path as a next hop.

59. (previously presented) A node in a communications network, the node comprising:

a first port operable to receive content destined for a destination node in the communications network;

one or more output ports operable to transmit content to at least a first path in said communications network and a second path in said communications network; and

a table configurable to cause content received at the first port to be selectively transmitted from the one or more output ports to either the first path or the second path in response to instructions derived from an analysis of an amount of elapsed time during which the table has been configured such that content has been transmitted from the one or more output ports to a current path.

60. (previously presented) A node as recited in claim 59, wherein the analysis involves comparing the amount of elapsed time against a threshold amount of time.

61. (previously presented) A node as recited in claim 60, wherein the current path comprises the first path and, wherein the table is modified to cause content to be routed from the one or more output ports to the second path if the amount of elapsed time exceeds the threshold amount of time.

62. (previously presented) A node as recited in claim 61, wherein the first path is an overlay forwarding path.

63. (previously presented) A node as recited in claim 59, wherein the current path comprises the first path and, wherein the table is operable to be modified to designate a neighboring node in the second path as a next hop.

64. (previously presented) A method for transmitting content in a communications network, wherein a table entry is configured to cause content to be transmitted via a first path in said communications network, the method comprising:

(A)    comparing an elapsed time associated with transmitting content via the first path with a threshold amount of time; and

(B)    modifying the table to cause content to be transmitted via a second path in said communications network as a result of the comparing step (A) when the elapsed time associated with transmitting content via the first path exceeds the threshold amount of time.

65. (previously presented) A method for transmitting content in a communications network, the method comprising:

(A)    configuring a table to cause content be routed to a first path in said communications network;

(B)    analyzing an elapsed time associated with transmitting content via the first path against a threshold amount of time;

(C)    modifying the table to cause content to be routed to a second path in said communications network based on analysis of the elapsed time against the threshold amount of time;

(D)    subsequent to the modifying step (C), analyzing a cost associated with transmitting content via the second path against a threshold cost;

(E)      modifying the table to cause content to be routed to a path distinct from said second path based on analysis of the cost against the threshold cost.

66. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein the threshold cost is based at least in part on a maximum elapsed time.

67. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein the threshold cost is based at least in part on a delay metric.

68. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein the threshold cost is based at least in part on a performance metric.

69-72. (Canceled)

73. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein the communications network comprises the Internet and wherein communication among nodes on the first path uses an Internet protocol, and communication among nodes on the second path uses at least the Internet protocol.

74. (previously presented) A node as recited in claim 59, wherein the communications network comprises the Internet and wherein communication among nodes on the first path uses an Internet protocol, and communication among nodes on the second path uses at least the Internet protocol.

75. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 64, wherein the communications network comprises the Internet and wherein communication among nodes on the first path uses an Internet protocol, and communication among nodes on the second path uses at least the Internet protocol.

76. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein the communications network comprises the Internet and wherein communication among nodes on the first path uses an Internet protocol, and communication among nodes on the second path uses at least the Internet protocol.

77. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 55, wherein a first network comprises the first path and a second network comprises the second path.

78. (previously presented) A node as recited in claim 59, wherein a first network comprises the first path and a second network comprises the second path.

79. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 64, wherein a first network comprises the first path and a second network comprises the second path.

80. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 65, wherein a first network comprises the first path and a second network comprises the second path.

81. (previously presented) A method for transmitting content in a communications network, the method comprising:

(A)     configuring a table to cause content to be routed via a first path in said communications network, said first path having been determined based at least in part on a first cost associated with transmitting content via the first path; and

(B)     based at least in part on how much time has elapsed since said configuring in step (A), modifying the table to cause content to be routed via a second path in said communications network, said second path having been determined based at least in part on a second cost associated with transmitting content via the second path.

82. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 81, wherein the second path is selected based at least in part on the then-current state of the network.

83. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 81, wherein the first path comprises at least one overlay node.

84. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 81, wherein the second path comprises at least one overlay node.

85. (previously presented) A method for transmitting content in a communications network, the method comprising:

(A)     configuring a table to cause content to be routed to a first node, a first network comprising said first node; and then, after a specified amount of time has passed since said configuring,

(B)     modifying the table to cause content to be routed to a second node, a second network comprising said second node, and said second node being distinct from the first node,

wherein the communications network comprises the Internet and wherein communication among nodes on the first network uses an Internet protocol, and communication among nodes on the second network uses at least the Internet protocol.


86. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 85, wherein a first overlay path comprises the first node and wherein a second overlay path comprises the second node.